



NEWS & REPORTS

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IRI scores show continuous gains 5-year effort makes a difference in reading skills

Five years after Idaho launched an aggressive campaign to improve the reading skills of its youngest students, results show the effort is working. Spring results from the Idaho Reading Indicator released in June by the State Department of Education show continued steady gains in performance with more students reaching state goals.

"I commend teachers and administrators across the state for their sustained hard work. This success is a credit to their dedication and attention to the needs of individual students," said Dr. Marilyn Howard, Superintendent of Public Instruction. "We are especially proud of the continuous improvement of our Native American and Hispanic students."

Overall results improve

Students in kindergarten through third grade took the Spring Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) this past April and May. The spring IRI is one of three progressively more difficult reading tests given each year to students in kindergarten, first, second, and third grades as part of a state reading initiative, launched in 1999.

The spring 2005 results show that more students reached the highest standard - at grade level - on the IRI than the previous four years. Data show the percentage of students at grade level has increased across the four grade levels tested since 2001:

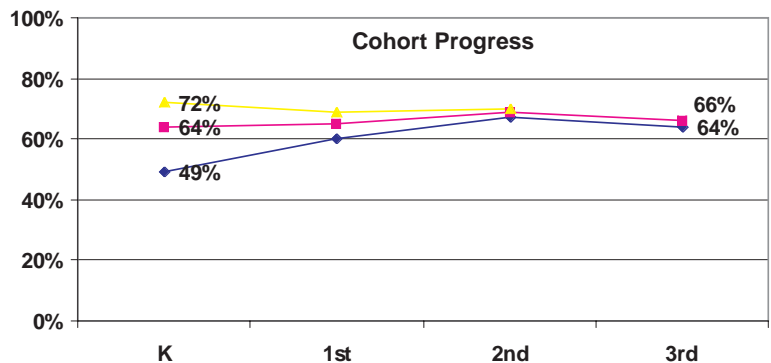
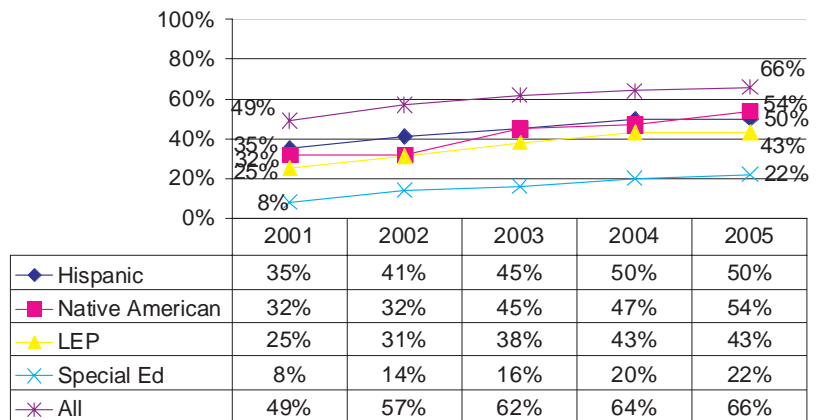
- In the spring of 2005, 80 percent of exiting kindergartners scored at the highest level compared to 57 percent four years ago.
- First and second graders rose to 70 percent reaching the highest standard in 2005, up from 52 and 53 percent respectively in 2001.
- Third graders improved from under half (49 percent) in 2001, to 66 percent reaching the highest standard in 2005.

Achievement gap

The focus of the state's reading initiative is to use the Idaho Reading Indicator to identify students who may be having difficulty and provide those students additional help to reach the standard.

During the past five years, several groups with large percentages of students not meeting the standard have made strong gains toward closing the performance gap. The state's overall gain is fueled in part by improved performance by Limited English, Hispanic, Native American, and special education students.

Third Graders at Grade Level 2001-2005



Idaho has four years of "cohort data" for two groups: Students who began school in 2001 as kindergartners (blue line) and students who began school in 2002 as kindergartners (pink line). Spring 2006 data will complete the information for 2003 kindergartners (yellow line).

State identifies schools

In addition to releasing spring scores, the department also published a legislatively mandated list of schools that did not meet state reading goals for kindergarten, first, and second grades. The list is available on the department's website www.sde.state.id.us/dept or by calling the department's public information department at 1 (800) 432-4601.

"Several of the schools identified were very close to meeting the state's goals and the effort should be recognized," Howard said. "Next year the challenge will be to maintain this success as the goals increase substantially."

In 2001, the Legislature set reading targets for schools to meet starting in the spring of 2004 with kindergarten and first grades. The goals increase and grade levels are added until 2006 when 85 percent of third graders are expected to be at grade level.

Of the state's 355 elementary schools,

- 7 schools did not meet the state goal for kindergarten -- 55 percent at grade level
- 84 schools did not meet the state goal for first grade -- 65 percent at grade level
- 63 schools did not meet the state goal for second grade -- 70 percent at grade level
- Schools also could make state goals if they showed a 5 percent increase in students meeting grade level standards from fall 2004 to spring 2005.

About 20 of the schools that did not meet the goals cannot be publicly listed because they have less than 10 students in kindergarten, first or second grades. Instead, those schools will be responsible for directly notifying parents that state goals were missed.

Of the schools identified, 27 schools missed kindergarten and first grade goals for a second year. Experts from the State Department of Education will work with these schools as required by law.

Spring Idaho Reading Indicator
Percent of Students Reading at grade level

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	5-year gain	State goals for proficiency
K	80%	78%	72%	64%	57%	23%	55% by 2005; 60% by 2006
1	70%	69%	65%	60%	52%	18%	65% by 2005; 70% by 2006
2	70%	69%	67%	62%	53%	17%	70% by 2005; 80% by 2006
3	66%	64%	62%	57%	49%	17%	85% by 2006

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Schools missing 2005 reading goals

IRI Spring 2005 Schools that missed the kindergarten goal of 55% at Grade Level

Dist Id	School Name
215	Parker-Egin Elementary School
304	Kamiah Elementary School
101	Valley View Elementary School
*4 schools were omitted from this list because fewer than 10 students were reported.	

IRI Spring 2005 Schools that missed the first grade goal of 65% at Grade Level

Dist ID	School Name
001	Horizon Elementary School
001	Jackson Elementary School
001	Jefferson Elementary School
001	Longfellow Elementary School
001	Lowell Elementary School
011	Meadows Valley Elementary
013	Council Elementary School
025	Edahow Elementary School
025	Greenacres Elementary School
025	Jefferson Elementary School
025	Pocatello Community Charter
025	Tendoy Elementary School
025	Tyhee Elementary School
025	Washington Elementary School
041	Heyburn Elementary School
044	Lakeside Elementary School
055	Blackfoot Community Learning
055	Fort Hall Elementary School
055	Groveland Elementary School
058	Aberdeen Elem-Middle School
061	Bellevue Elementary School
061	Ernest Hemingway Elementary
073	Horseshoe Bend Elementary
084	Farmin Stidwell Elementary School
084	Hope Elementary School
084	Kootenai Elementary School
084	Southside Elementary School
084	Washington Elementary School
091	Dora Erickson Elem School
091	Edgemont Gardens Elementary
091	Linden Park Elementary School
093	Hillview Elementary School
093	Tiebreaker Elementary School
101	Valley View Elementary School
111	Arco Elementary School
131	Central Elementary
131	Iowa Elementary
131	Lincoln Elementary School
131	Roosevelt Elementary School

Public notification

The department shall prepare a list of these schools and the grade or grades not attaining the achievement goal. This list shall be made available for the public, shall be published in the next issue of the state publication of the department and may be made available on the internet following the spring assessment.

131	Snake River Elementary
132	Van Buren Elementary School
132	Wilson Elementary School
133	Holmes Elementary School
134	Middleton Heights Elementary
135	Notus Elementary School
137	Maxine Johnson Elementary
139	East Canyon Elementary School
149	North Gem Elementary School
171	Weippe Elementary School
192	Glenns Ferry Elementary School
215	Central Elementary School
233	Hagerman Elementary School
234	Bliss School
241	Grangeville Elem-Jr High Sch
271	Bryan Elementary School
271	Sorensen Elementary School
271	Winton Elementary School
274	Harrison Elementary School
288	Idaho Distance Education Acad
321	Burton Elementary School
331	Heyburn Elementary School
340	Camelot Elementary School
340	Centennial Elementary School
340	Mc Sorley Elementary School
340	Orchards Elementary School
341	Lapwai Elementary School
363	Marsing Primary School
365	Grand View Elementary School
371	Payette Primary School
391	Sunnyside Elementary School
417	Castleford School
432	Cambridge Elementary School
452	Idaho Virtual Academy

*11 schools that missed first grade targets are not listed because their results are for fewer than 10 students

IRI Spring 2005 Schools that missed the second grade goal of 70% at Grade Level

Dist Id	School Name
001	Anser Charter School
002	Lake Hazel Elementary School

002	Mc Millan Elementary School
002	Ustick Elementary School
013	Council Elementary School
025	Chubbuck Elementary School
025	Greenacres Elementary School
025	Indian Hills Elementary School
025	Rulon M Ellis Elem School
025	Syringa Elementary School
025	Washington Elementary School
041	Heyburn Elementary School
055	Blackfoot Community Learning
072	Basin Elementary School
093	Fairview Elementary School
093	Hillview Elementary School
093	White Pine Charter School
131	Greenhurst Elementary School
131	Iowa Elementary
131	Lincoln Elementary School
131	Owyhee Elementary
131	Reagan Elementary
131	Roosevelt Elementary School
131	Snake River Elementary
132	Lincoln Elementary School
132	Van Buren Elementary School
133	Holmes Elementary School
136	Melba Elementary School
139	East Canyon Elementary School
139	West Canyon Elementary School
150	Howard E Thirkill Primary Sch
192	Glenns Ferry Elementary School
215	Ashton Elementary School
215	Parker-Egin Elementary School
241	Grangeville Elem-Jr High Sch
253	Hamer Elementary School
253	Terreton Elem-Jr High School
285	Potlatch Elementary School
288	Idaho Distance Education Acad
314	Dietrich School
321	Burton Elementary School
322	Central Elementary School
331	Heyburn Elementary School
340	Orchards Elementary School
382	Rockland Public School
413	Filer Elementary School
417	Castleford School
452	Idaho Virtual Academy

*15 schools that missed the state goal are not listed because their results are for fewer than 10 students

Third grade goals begin in 2006

Department identifies schools for 2nd year

In 2001, the Idaho Legislature established reading goals for kindergarten, first, second, and third grades. The State Department of Education was directed to monitor progress and identify schools who missed the goal.

Lawmakers also required the department to identify schools that miss grade-level goals for two consecutive years, and provide them extra help.

Below is the list of schools for 2005. Reading Specialist Chris Hanson will be contacting schools and reviewing the law's requirements. She also will post a toolkit of information to assist schools.

IRI Spring 2005 Schools that missed the state goal for kindergarten for two consecutive years

Dist Id	School Name
101	Valley View Elementary School

Consequences

For schools that miss state reading goals for two consecutive years, Idaho law says: "the state department of education shall provide for an intervention program which will consist of at least, but not limited to, a site visit by designated personnel from schools that have achieved the state standard and may include others who are familiar with reading achievement. The intervention team shall make recommendations to the district on means for improvement in order to meet and exceed the state's reading goals.

IRI Spring 2005 Schools that missed the first grade goal for two consecutive years

Dist Id	School Name
011	Meadows Valley Elementary
013	Council Elementary School
025	Jefferson Elementary School
025	Pocatello Community Charter
061	Bellevue Elementary School

084	Farmin Stidwell Elementary School
091	Edgemont Gardens Elementary
101	Valley View Elementary School
131	Iowa Elementary
131	Lincoln Elementary School
131	Snake River Elementary
133	Holmes Elementary School
139	East Canyon Elementary School
171	Weippe Elementary School
233	Hagerman Elementary School
234	Bliss School
321	Burton Elementary School
331	Heyburn Elementary School
340	Orchards Elementary School
341	Lapwai Elementary School
363	Marsing Primary School
365	Grand View Elementary School
391	Sunnyside Elementary School

*4 schools missing state targets for second year are not listed because their results are for fewer than 10 students

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